Technology is used in everyday situations, such as surfing the internet, calculating the distances from point A to point B, or working on assignments that is due for work or school. One of the most common used of technology are computers. Computers are used to surf the web for multiple purposes, such as entertainment, communication, and to gather information. People can easily assess the inter-web, but there are certain programs that computers needs to have to fit the needs for everyone especially people who have disabilities like blindness.

 According to “id-book.com”, the internet is a good use for blind people because it helps them to “independently complete tasks which they would normally not be able to accomplish without help from others”. There are different methods that blind people can access the web. One way that they can surf the web is assistive technology. Assistive technology gives users the ability to access websites. There are two different categories: screen readers and refreshable braille displays. Screen readers are “software that translate screen contents into synthetic speech. In other words, a software is reading the information that is on the screen, which the users can hear and retrieve the informations. In addition, screen reader only focus on one element at a time, and will not be able to describe pictures that are a webpage. Another program that helps blind people surf the web is refreshable braille displays which are “hardware devices containing a strip of retractable braille pins, allowing braille characters to be generated”. This can be easier for users to type the web links that they want to go to, but it is difficult to know what is on the screen without a screen reader. Nevertheless, screen reader is the program that have the most effective that help blind people surf the web.

 While designing webpages, web designers should focus on specific accommodations that they should consider. One specific element that web designers should focus on is images. For users who are visual impaired, they cannot see the pictures that is on the webpage. Hence, “Provide text descriptions, in alt text and, if necessary, longer explanations” would help clarify the informations for them. Another element that web designers should think about is do not use frames unless it is necessary. The challenge for visual impaired people is that “frames cannot be ‘seen’ all at once”. It would help them navigate, and it is easier for screen reader to communicate. In conclusion, people who have disabilities surf the web as well, but it is better for web designers to create web pages that is accessible for everyone.

Work Cited

<http://www.id-book.com/preece/whatisitlike.html>

<http://webaim.org/articles/visual/blind>